

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN REINY JABS**, on March 15, 1999 at 3:14 P.M., in Room 413/415 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Reiny Jabs, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Walter McNutt, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Tom A. Beck (R)  
Sen. Gerry Devlin (R)  
Sen. Pete Ekegren (R)  
Sen. Mike Halligan (D)  
Sen. Ric Holden (R)  
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)  
Sen. Ken Mesaros (R)  
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)  
Sen. Jon Tester (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Carol Masolo, Committee Secretary  
Doug Sternberg, Legislative Branch

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted:  
Executive Action: HJ 26, HJ 27, HB 499

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 26**

Doug Sternberg distributed amendments requested by **SENATOR JERGESON. EXHIBIT (ags58a01)**

**SENATOR JERGESON** passed out copies of a press release that might relate to this. **EXHIBIT (ags58a02)** Most of this resolution is an issue of road obliteration. When you get to the "be it resolveds", it suggests the current moratorium by the Forest Service on new road construction also be rescinded. I've been trying to convince **REP. BITNEY** we might want **REP. KASICH** to be an ally so we might want to keep this resolution silent on the issue of the moratorium on new road construction and have it confined solely to the issue of road obliteration. The effect of my amendment would be that the resolution would confine itself to road obliteration and we would stay silent on the issue of new road construction. **REP. KASICH** in Washington is a pretty powerful member and he seems to have a little cause involving new road construction. I'd rather not earn his enmity towards this other issue. **REP. BITNEY**'s not sure of the impact of my amendment and wanted to spend some time looking at it. I don't think the amendment does violence to what he's trying accomplish with his resolution.

**Motion:** **SEN. JERGESON** moved that **AMENDMENT HJ002601.ADS BE ADOPTED.**

**SENATOR MCNUTT** **REP. BITNEY** told me he's opposed to your amendments because he thinks it opposes what he generally feels is the context of what he'd like to do.

**SENATOR HALLIGAN** All the testimony was about the obliteration aspect of it. I don't know why he would oppose the amendment. You have a major Republican in Congress who evidently has a problem with new construction. This keeps in place a substantial portion of what he wanted to do.

**Vote:** Motion carried 9-1 with **SENATOR DEVLIN** voting no. **SENATOR BECK** was absent for the vote.

**Motion/Vote:** **SEN. JERGESON** moved that **HJR 26 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously.

**SENATOR JERGESON** will carry to the Senate.

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJR 27**

**SENATOR JERGESON** The resolution finds fault with the Bureau of Reclamation for their attempt to increase the fees on Pick Sloan projects. This amendment clarifies part of their rationale for what they're doing is prompted by Congressional Budget Resolutions. I don't think we ought to let Congress off the hook on this issue. **EXHIBIT (ags58a03)**

**Motion/Vote:** SEN. JERGESON moved that **AMENDMENT HJ002701.ADS BE ADOPTED. Motion carried unanimous.**

**Motion/Vote:** SEN. JERGESON moved that **HJR 27 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. Motion carried 10-1 with Jabs voting no.**

**SENATOR JERGESON** will carry to the Senate.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 499**

**CHAIRMAN JABS** left to present a bill and turned the chair over to **VICE CHAIR MCNUTT**.

**Doug Sternberg** received a copy of an amendment to **HB 499** from Mr. Abelin right before the meeting. It's not prepared according to form. I do note that there is a grammatical problem.

Handout from U.S. Dept. of Interior was reviewed by members of the Committee. **EXHIBIT (ags58a04)**

**Motion/Vote:** SEN. HOLDEN moved that **HB 499 BE TABLED. Motion carried 7-3** on a roll call vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 3:25 P.M.

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SEN. REINY JABS, Chairman

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CAROL MASOLO, Secretary

RJ/CM

**EXHIBIT** (ags58aad)